

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 /078 W

----- 001964

R 310720Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, MILI, VS

SUBJ: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: BUDAPEST 1566

1. MAY 30 WIRELESS FILE PROVIDING TEXT OF DEPARTMENTAL  
SPOKESMAN'S MAY 29 STATEMENT TO WASHINGTON PRESS MOST  
HELPFUL.

2. HAVING RECEIVED NO REPLY TO MOST RECENT DEMARCHE TO  
DEPUTY FONMIN RACZ, MCAULIFFE HAS JUST SENT FOLLOWING  
LETTER TO HIM:

QUOTE DEAR MR. MINISTER: WHEN I CALLED ON YOU ON MAY 23,  
YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE DISCUSSED THE UNFORTUNATE SITUATION OF  
THE PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE STILL BEING HELD  
CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM BY THE AUTHORITIES IN SAIGON, LONG  
AFTER THE HOSTILITIES IN THAT UNHAPPY COUNTRY HAVE  
CEASED.

YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE NOTED THAT YESTERDAY IN  
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WASHINGTON THE SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MR.

ROBERT FUNSETH, EXPRESSED THE SERIOUS CONCERN OF MY  
GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE FATE OF THOSE UNITED STATES CITIZENS.  
MR. FUNSETH'S STATEMENT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"I WISH TO STATE OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT NINE  
AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES  
IN SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE U.S.  
EMBASSY.

"AMONG THE GROUP ARE SIX MISSIONARIES CAPTURED  
MARCH 10 AT BAN ME THUOT, SOUTH VIETNAM, WITH A FORD  
FOUNDATION SCHOLAR, A USAID OFFICIAL, AN AUSTRALIAN  
TOURIST, AND A CANADIAN MISSIONARY COUPLE.

"IN ADDITION, A U.S. CONSULAR OFFICER ASSIGNED TO  
NHA TRAN WAS CAPTURED WHEN COMMUNIST FORCES OVERRAN  
PHAN RANG ON APRIL 16.

"THERE IS WIDE CONCERN ABOUT THESE PERSONS, WHO  
CONTINUE TO BE HELD LONG AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL  
AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM. WE CONSIDER THEIR RELEASE AND  
SAFE RETURN A MATTER OF URGENT PRIORITY AND CONCERN.

"MOREOVER, ABOUT 2,300 AMERICANS CONTINUE TO REMAIN  
UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA FROM THE PERIOD BEFORE THE  
1973 CEASEFIRE--900 OF THEM (INCLUDING 30 CIVILIANS)  
STILL LISTED AS MISSING, THE REST DECLARED DEAD WITH  
THEIR BODIES NOT RECOVERED.

"UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT THE COMMUNIST SIDE  
UNDERTOOK TO HELP ACCOUNT FOR THE MISSING KNOWN  
TO RETURN THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD. PROGRESS ON THIS IS  
LONG OVERDUE.

"WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO  
COOPERATE IN RESOLVING THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM."

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC HAS FOUND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS  
ITS HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THESE  
IMPRISONED CIVILIANS. IT IS MY FURTHER HOPE THAT  
YOU WILL NOT HESITATE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME AT ANY HOUR  
OF THE DAY OR NIGHT IN THE EVENT THAT THE MINISTRY RECEIVES  
INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR WELFARE OR ABOUT THE DATE ON  
WHICH THEY WILL BE RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY.

WITH DEEP THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS ASSISTANCE  
AND WITH WARM BEST WISHES. UNQUOTE  
MCAULIFFE  
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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
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